



PAU 3731

PATENT #19
02581-P0045A WWW/YBK/TMO
Amended
S. Byrce
2/14/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	Hubert Manhes
Serial No. 09/214,875	Filing Date: April 19, 1999
Title of Application	Trocar Sleeve For Endoscopic Applications
Group Art Unit 3731	Examiner William Lewis

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Response to Official Action

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action of November 8, 2000, Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please amend the Claims as follows:

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FEB 14 2001
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

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26. (Amended) The trocar sleeve defined in claim 25 wherein the [spring elements] spring-biased joints bias the pivotable parts away from one another to an operative position upon displacement of the surgical instrument along one passage after cutting the body wall.

Mailing Certificate: I hereby certify that this correspondence is today being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as *First Class Mail* in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment; Assistant Commissioner for Patents; Washington, DC 20231.

February 7, 2001

Joanne M. Cassone
Joanne M. Cassone